

**GOULDS ELEMENTARY
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**



1935

1939

Mr. David H. Dobbs, *Principal*

*Now Mays Junior High School
Library*

Education

According to Arthur Schomburg, the African American has long possessed a deep faith in the power of education to bring about a change in his status and in the conditions affecting his personal life. He has believed that education is the key to many shackles that bind him. In the days of slavery this belief was strengthened by slave masters who, believing in the importance of education, declared it criminal for blacks to learn to read and write.

The history of education for black Americans can be traced to the church. The Quakers in Philadelphia provided schools for Africans as early as 1774. General support for the education of free blacks began in New Jersey in 1777. In New York, the African Free School was opened in 1787. Primus Hall opened a school in his Boston home in 1798. A few individual schools were established by churches, slaveholders and free Negroes, yet only two Negro institutions of higher learning existed prior to the Civil War: Wilhenforce University (1856) and Lincoln University (1854). Immediately following the War, the Freedmen's Bureau established 4,239 schools with 9,307 teachers and 247,333 students. Ten colleges and universities were founded in the south between 1865 and 1876. Alcorn College became the first land-grant college to be started (1871). The next decade saw "agricultural and manual arts or agricultural and industrial" (A&M A&I) colleges develop in nearly all of the ex-confederate states. The most celebrated, Tuskegee Institute (1881) is today a leading institution.

History of
Goulds Elementary
Junior and Senior High School
1916 - 1939

Education was not included among the basic need for blacks in the South Dade area in the early 1900's.

For many families, it was a massive problem trying to provide food, shelter, and clothing. However there were a few people with a house full of children and a lot of foresight who knew that in order to survive, education had to be added to the basic need.

CAIL'S QUARTERS

Mr. D.D. Cail, a black farmer, and business man purchased land and established the first business district in Goulds. On this property, which was located on Old Dixie Highway and 220 Street, Mr. Cail built a "big house" for himself, eleven frame houses with two to three bedroom, kitchen, and a porch: a six bedroom rooming house: a large packing house; a restaurant; grocery store and in the center of the property was an open top theater, known as the "Sky Doome." Everyone remembers the operator of the theater came from Miami, but no one recalls his name. The photographer was also from Miami and came down every Sunday. Mrs. Hazella Henderson recalls the rent for the houses was \$1.50 to \$1.75 per week and \$.75 for the rooms. On Saturday, for \$.10 one could see a regular movie and a Western series (Hoot Gibson or Tom Mix) Prize fights were also held in the theater.

Some of the first families that lived in Cail's Quarters have children still living in Goulds who remember "the good ole days."

Mr. Bush a white business man set up Commisary or store and later sold out to Mr. Ben Leff. Mrs. Cora M. Simmons opened the restaurant and later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge and Sally Roux.



Mr. Talmadge Roux



Mr. and Mrs. Mays

The packing house was something to behold. All of the farmers brought their vegetables there to be packed and shipped, and over half of the residents of Goulds were employed there during the season. Mr. Cail's house "the big house" was used as the Community Center. The first organizational Meeting for Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church was held at "the big house" in 1914. A one room frame building for the church was later constructed on 221 Street (now U.S. 1)

In 1915 Mr. Cail, Mr. Mays and other residents recognized the need for a school. In early 1916 Missionary B.F. James was contacted and became the first instructor on a part-time basis. Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church became the first classroom. Students were divided in groups and grades one through six were taught Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Geography.

BOOKS

Mrs. Vera Rolle Maycox remembers her books as well as all students' books were purchased by the parents. In 1930, used books from white schools were brought into the portables a few weeks before the school term began to be sorted for distribution. Many of the pages were torn out, and only half of the stack of books were usable. This placed a financial burden on families that were forced to purchase books.

CERTIFICATION

In 1916, anyone with an eighth grade education was allowed to teach, Mrs. Eunice Gaither completed 12th grade at Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina in 1917. Her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Davis and Rebecca Gaither persuaded her to help Rev. B.F. James with the school. Mrs. Louise Cato James, Mrs. Maude Roux, Mrs. Mattie Parrish, and Rev. Baker were high school students certified to teach in Goulds. Mrs. Elizabeth Perry substituted frequently.

In 1920, Mrs. Euncie Gaither returned to Benedict College and completed her B.A. Degree in 1924. Returning to Goulds, she was the first teacher with a degree and was in charge of classes.

In 1930, teachers were allowed to complete two years of college and complete their education during the summer. It was referred to as "Normal Certification."



New Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church



New Bethel A.M.E. Church

1919

Mr. Cail, Mr. Talmadge Roux and Mr. Arthur Mays, along with residents of the area, met again in the "big house" to seek help from the School Board for another teacher, because Mt. Pleasant was over-crowded. Another teacher was hired in 1920 when New Bethel A.M.E. Church was built. Mr. Talmadge Roux suggested that the children be divided. Miss Maude Roux, his sister, took over Grades 4, 5 and 6. Miss Mattie Parrish taught Grades 1, 2 and 3.

1924

Mrs. Eunice Gaither Tanner was considered the principal, and Grades 7 and 8 were added.

1926

Mrs. Johnnie Mae Everett Mitchell recalls that Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church was destroyed by the 1926 hurricane. Classes and church were held in a tent and in New Bethel A.M.E. Church.

1928

Mrs. Clara Bell Calloway Cooper, a member of New Bethel, remembers all students' going to Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church after the 1928 hurricane destroyed their church. New Bethel was rebuilt in 1929.

1929

Mr. Talmadge Roux, Mr. Arthur Mays, Mr. D.D. Cail, and concerned parents met again at the "big house" to request from the School Board a school building and land for students to learn to farm. They were told no funds for a building were available. All banks had closed. All assets were frozen. It was the beginning of the "depression." The Board agreed to consider putting up portables if the Goulds group would provide the land. Mrs. Valuda Waters states emphatically that her uncle, Mr. William Randolph, donated five acres of land for the school when Mr. Talmadge Roux told him about the need. (Pina Villa was later build on the property.)

1930

Dade County School Board could no longer ignore the serious educational problems in Goulds. During the summer, four portables, a faculty house, and manuel training building, complete with a canning factory, were set on the land.

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, Goulds, FLORIDA
 PUPIL'S NAME **Wright, William** 10A

SUBJECT	SEMIESTER BEGINNING SEPT. 1937	SEMIESTER BEGINNING FEB. 1938
Please fill in data on pupil's accuracy	Four Weeks Four Weeks Four Weeks Five Weeks Ave.	Four Weeks Four Weeks Four Weeks Five Weeks Ave.
Pupil's grade of class		
Median grade		
Days absent		
Times tardy		
Conduct		

PUPIL'S NAME **William H. Wright**
 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, Goulds, FLORIDA
 11A

SUBJECT	SEMIESTER BEGINNING SEPT. 1937	SEMIESTER BEGINNING FEB. 1938
Geometry	Four Weeks Four Weeks Four Weeks Five Weeks Ave.	Four Weeks Four Weeks Four Weeks Five Weeks Ave.
Pupil's grade of class		
Median grade		
Days absent		
Times tardy		
Conduct		

SUBJECT	SEMIESTER BEGINNING SEPT. 1937	SEMIESTER BEGINNING FEB. 1938
Manual Training	Four Weeks Four Weeks Four Weeks Five Weeks Ave.	Four Weeks Four Weeks Four Weeks Five Weeks Ave.
Pupil's grade of class		
Median grade		
Days absent		
Times tardy		
Conduct		

DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 PUPIL'S NAME **Wright, William**
 PARENT'S NAME **Mr. Wm. Wright**
 RESIDENCE ADDRESS **304 E. 109th St., Goulds, Florida**
 DATE **Sept 14, 1938**
 GRADE **11A**
 FINISHED SEM. **1937**
 GRADE OF SUBJECTS IF IRREGULAR

Algebra	85.71	90.93
English	89.88	85.71
Social Study	83.86	85.71
Latin	80.77	85.71
Spanish	80.77	85.71
Science	80.77	85.71
History	85.71	85.71
Music	85.71	85.71
Public Speaking	85.71	85.71
Arts and Crafts	85.71	85.71
Home Economics	85.71	85.71
Manual Training	85.71	85.71
Physical Education	85.71	85.71
School Citizenship	85.71	85.71
Normal Weight	85.71	85.71
Actual Weight	85.71	85.71
Times Tardy	85.71	85.71
Days Present	85.71	85.71

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, Goulds, FLORIDA
 PUPIL'S NAME **William H. Wright** 11B

SUBJECT	SEMIESTER BEGINNING SEPT. 1937	SEMIESTER BEGINNING FEB. 1938
English	Four Weeks Four Weeks Four Weeks Five Weeks Ave.	Four Weeks Four Weeks Four Weeks Five Weeks Ave.
Pupil's grade of class		
Median grade		
Days absent		
Times tardy		
Conduct		

Report Cards

1939

GRADUATION

Everything was in readiness for the first graduating class of Goulds Elementary, Junior and Senior High School.

Final exams were given and all four students passed everything with high grades except everyone flunked the History exam. Lydia A. Everett made the highest grade (67). The instructor, Mr. Anthony Gardner informed all they would not be able to graduate. He was asked to give another exam. This would not be possible until the last day, Friday. Again, all students flunked. Lydia Everett made the highest grade (68). The situation was critical. Three of the students asked what they could do to pass. The instructor said "What will you give me if I let you pass?" Welton Roux offered oranges and grapefruits; Winnie Lee Mix, mangoes and avocados; William H. Wright, tomatoes, turnips, collard greens; Lydia A. Everett, nothing. The latter was excused to go home and the others were given an assignment to be brought in on Sunday at 1 p.m. Bacculaureate was at 3 p.m. Lydia felt she would be better prepared for college by going to summer school in Miami and making up the grade. News spread like wild fire. When Mrs. Moann H. Everett heard the news, she understood her daughter's principle, but felt she had made too many sacrifices keeping her children in school ever for this to happen. She caught the Greyhound bus on Saturday and met with Mr. Gardner, he consented only on her account. The assignment was to outline all chapters in the History book, and write a brief synopsis on each chapter. It was a 16 hour assignment. Lydia's fingers were so swollen that her hand would not close. The other students assignment was only half the book. Lydia's cap and gown were picked up from Mr. Dobbs' and on Sunday, the first graduates marched down the aisle in the auditorium.

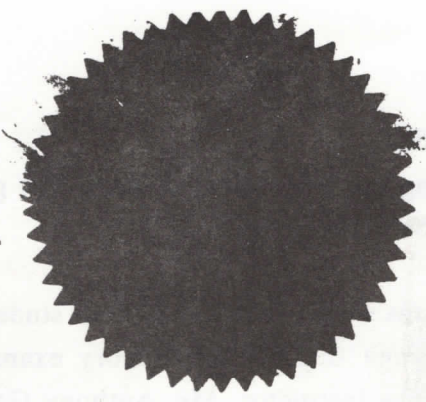
On Thursday, June 2, 1939 Winnie Lee Mix, Salutatorian gave a flawless speech entitled "Nobility and Lydia Everett, the Valedictorian had a standing ovation, "Knowledge Is Better Than Wealth".

High School Diploma

Trade County, Florida



Miss Virginia Hall



William Herbert Wright

having satisfactorily completed the Course of Study prescribed by the Board of Public Instruction for the County of Trade, State of Florida is entitled to this

Diploma

Givern at Seville, Florida, this 1st day of June 1939

Wm. E. Blanton

Chairman, Board of Public Instruction

J. E. Carter

Chairman, Board of Trade

James T. Wilson

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Seville, Florida

Class of 1939



L-R: Winnie Lee Mix, *Welton Roux, Lydia A. Everett, William H. Wright

**In Loving Memory*

Class Motto:
"Knowledge Is Better Than Wealth"

Class Colors
Blue and Gold

Acknowledgements

The authenticity of this article was made possible by the memories of many people.

The classmates. **Winnie Lee Mix Paxton**, retired nurse, double amputee, diabetic, suffered a heart attack, now a patient in Baptist Hospital.

Welton Roux: Deceased; Son of Mr. Talmadge and Mrs. Sally Roux.

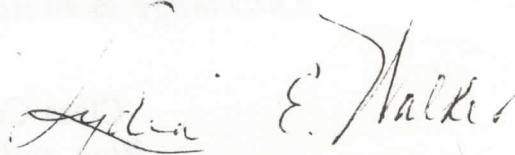
William H. Wright, Jr. retired farmer, self employed landscaper, diabetic, has suffered two heart attacks, provided class pictures, class grades, and still has a table he made in Manual Training 1936.

Lydia E. Walker, Cosmetologist, Barber, Nurse, Instructor, Nursing Home Administrator, Funeral Director - Walker's Funeral Home.

Teachers: Mrs. Victoria Robinson Wilson, Mrs. Minnie James, Mr. Nelson Bethel, Mrs. Vermille Tanner Boone, Mrs. Ruby Yeardie Beckwich.

Students and Residents: Mrs. Valuda Waters, Mrs. Clara Bell Calloway Cooper, Mrs. Johnnie M. Everett Mitchell, Mrs. Pernina Thomas Smith, Mrs. Vester Everett Carter, Mr. Earl Thomas, Mrs. Doris Davis Wright, Mrs. Essie Mix Williams, Mrs. Hazella Henderson, and Mrs. Vera Rolle Maycox.

Thanks to all of you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lydia E. Walker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and class year.

Lydia E. Walker
Class of 1939

